

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

## SEPTEMBER 2003



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

### Little Change in August's Industry Employment

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) jumped up two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.4 percent in August. The monthly labor force figures show 80 more county residents unemployed and 1,090 fewer employed. From a monthly perspective, it is not uncommon to see such a drop in the number of employed, but it is usually accompanied with a drop in the number unemployed as well. Racine did not see this typical dynamic and also did not see the usual unemployment rate decrease in August. The unemployment rate is one full percent point higher than it was in August 2002 and continues the trend of a softer labor market.

Racine MSA's industry employment shows 100 fewer jobs, net, since July. Industry performance was rather flat in August, which is commonplace in this month. Most industries changed very little, if at all, over the month. The fall months will certainly change inactivity.

Annually, Racine County shows the best job growth of the southeast counties with over 1,100 new jobs. Business services, education and health services, and retail trade were the foundation of this growth. Manufacturing employment shows a 100-job decrease compared to August 2002. This is the first annual manufacturing employment decrease since March of this year.

The **Kenosha MSA** registered a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.9 percent. August's rate was higher than the previous month and from the same month a year earlier by one-tenth and four-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. The annual hike in the unemployment rate was precipitated by an increase of 450 more unemployed residents; this despite the fact that the Kenosha area shows 1,860 more employed, as well.

The nonfarm wage and salary estimates of industry employment show a flat, 200-job increase over the month for all industries' employment. Kenosha usually expects a bit more of a

pop in their jobs' figures, by usually over 1,000 jobs or so. Like Racine, Kenosha saw very little flux in any single industry. Manufacturing employment showed a gain of 100 jobs, which is always encouraging and retail trade showed a typical August bounce in its employment levels.

Compared to last August, the Kenosha MSA has increased its net number of jobs by 400. August is the fourth month in a row to show an annual improvement in Kenosha County's number of jobs. These increases have not been large, but are

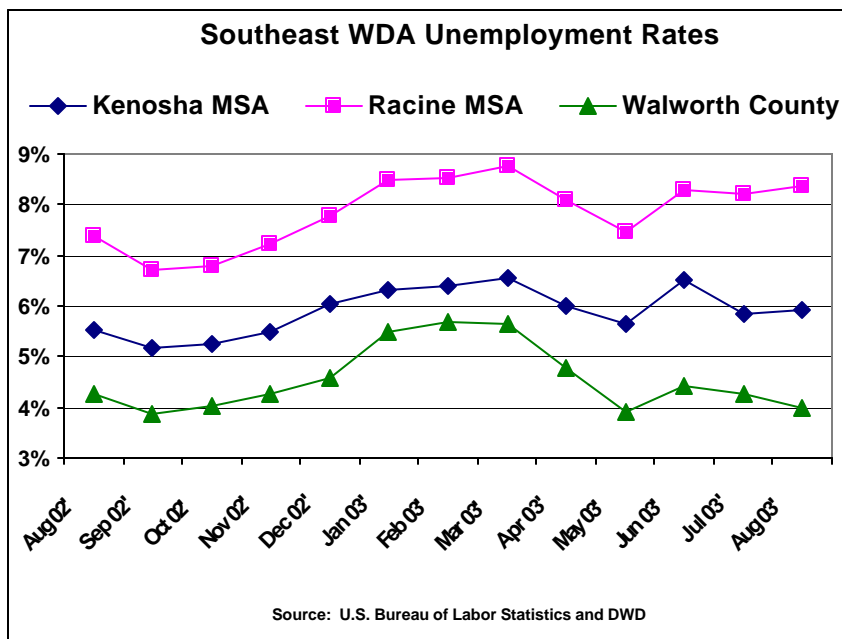
positive movement nonetheless. Retail trade showed the largest increase—1,100 jobs. Manufacturing showed the largest decrease by 400 jobs. The remaining industries showed little change over the year, though government employment is down 300 jobs. Most of these jobs were at the local government level.

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate decreased by three-

tenths of a point over the month to 4.0 percent. The annual picture shows that Walworth's unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point. The monthly change was fairly seasonal in nature. The annual rate decrease was the first one for the month of August since 1999.

Walworth County's industry employment figures show a small increase of 100 jobs. Most of this net gain was in manufacturing employment. This was an extremely flat month in Walworth County and this is not necessarily a negative issue given that the county usually experiences a net decrease in employment in August as some seasonal industries begin to wind down in their staffing levels. September's figures will definitely show more of this seasonal decrease in a much larger fashion.

But the annual comparison is really the better economic gauge. Walworth's total industry employment is 700 fewer than last August. This net loss shows robust growth in leisure and hospitality employment and education and health services only to be offset by more extreme losses in business services, manufacturing, government and total trade employment.



<b>August 2003</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Kenosha County/MSA</b>	<b>Racine County/MSA</b>	<b>Walworth County</b>	<b>Southeast WDA</b>	<b>City of Kenosha</b>	<b>City of Racine</b>
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,129,356	86,162	98,297	56,199	240,658	51,056	41,594
Persons Employed	2,959,618	81,068	90,073	53,951	225,092	47,404	36,000
Persons Unemployed	169,738	5,094	8,224	2,248	15,566	3,652	5,594
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.9%	8.4%	4.0%	6.5%	7.2%	13.4%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	2,795.1	54.7	81.5	42.0	178.2		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	652.8	12.9	24.3	10.7	47.9		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	2,142.3	41.8	57.2	31.4	130.4		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	131.8	2.4	4.3	2.0	8.7		
All Manufacturing	521.0	10.5	20.0	8.6	39.1		
Total Trade	442.2	9.8	12.9	5.2	27.9		
Wholesale Trade	119.1	2.0	3.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	323.1	7.8	9.8	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	102.5	1.5	1.7	1.2	4.4		
Financial Activities	159.3	1.6	2.6	1.0	5.2		
Education and Health Services	363.3	7.3	10.5	4.2	22.0		
Leisure & Hospitality	260.5	6.4	6.5	9.1	22.0		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	439.4	6.5	12.6	4.7	23.8		
Information	50.9	0.4	0.8	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	250.7	3.3	6.9	xx	xx		
Other Services	137.8	2.8	4.9	xx	xx		
All Government	375.1	8.7	10.4	6.0	25.1		
<b>Change from July 2003</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-38,630	-550	-1,020	-640	-2,200	-210	-290
Persons Employed	-32,640	-570	-1,090	-450	-2,100	-330	-440
Persons Unemployed	-5,990	10	80	-190	-100	120	140
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	-5.4	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	2.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	-7.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
All Manufacturing	2.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1		
Total Trade	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3		
Wholesale Trade	0.4	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	1.5	0.2	0.1	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1		
Education and Health Services	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2		
Leisure & Hospitality	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Information	-0.2	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	0.3	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	-1.1	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	-5.8	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2		
<b>Change from August 2002</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	74,000	2,310	3,720	-70	5,960	1,430	1,840
Persons Employed	59,120	1,860	2,480	70	4,410	1,090	990
Persons Unemployed	14,880	450	1,240	-140	1,550	340	840
Unemployment Rate	0.4%	0.4%	1.0%	-0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	1.5%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	1.2	0.4	1.1	-0.7	0.8		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-23.4	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	24.6	0.8	1.2	-0.5	1.5		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1		
All Manufacturing	-15.2	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7		
Total Trade	9.3	1.2	0.5	-0.3	1.4		
Wholesale Trade	3.6	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	5.7	1.1	0.5	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2		
Financial Activities	5.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1		
Education and Health Services	6.4	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5		
Leisure & Hospitality	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.9	0.7		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	9.4	0.1	0.8	-0.6	0.3		
Information	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	6.3	0.1	0.6	xx	xx		
Other Services	2.6	0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	-4.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.6	-1.0		

\* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. \*\*Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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